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**CHICAGO GANG MEMBER AND MISSISSIPPI GUN DEALER CONVICTED
OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS TO CHICAGO STREET GANGS**

CHICAGO -- A Federal Court jury today convicted a onetime Chicago street gang member and an ex-firearms dealer in Mississippi in a conspiracy to illegally purchase guns in Mississippi and transport them to Chicago where they were re-sold to other street gang members. The defendants, **Charles Yarbor**, of Chicago, and **Jimmy D. Wren**, of Nettleton, Miss., were found guilty after a jury deliberated for just about an hour, following a trial that started Nov. 5, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Chicago. Yarbor, 24, and Wren, 57, were each found guilty of one count of conspiracy to violate federal firearms laws, which was the only count they faced in an indictment that was returned earlier this year. The case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a comprehensive city, state and federal anti-gun initiative.

According to the evidence and the court records, between 1995 and 1997, Yarbor, and two other co-defendants, **Louis Rowe** and **Julius Sangster**, with the help of four unindicted women who they recruited to act as straw purchasers of firearms on their behalf, purchased approximately 83 firearms in and around Grenada, Miss., from federally-licensed dealers, including about 50 of them from Wren, and then transported the weapons to Chicago for re-sale at a profit to fellow street

gang members. Approximately 28 of the guns were recovered on the streets of Chicago, of which almost all were recovered incident to crimes. The evidence showed that Yarbor was a member of the Gangster Disciples and Sangster and Rowe were members of the Vice Lords street gangs.

The evidence showed that Rowe, Sangster and Yarbor, in addition to using straw purchasers, also occasionally purchased firearms in their own names or using alias names. Wren, who did business as J.W.'s Second Amendment Sporting Goods Store in Nettleton, knew that Rowe, Sangster, Yarbor and the straw purchasers were providing false information in the ATF forms when he sold them the firearms.

Evidence also showed that the Rowe, Sangster and Yarbor would obtain crack cocaine in Chicago and transport it to Mississippi where they sold it for four times more than they could obtain in Chicago, buy guns from Wren and other dealers and then sell the weapons, which included Norinco SKS assault rifles and 9mm pistols, for approximately 10 times their value, primarily to Chicago gang members on the west side and in the 11th police district.

U.S. District Chief Judge Charles Kocoras scheduled sentencing for Yarbor and Wren for Feb. 13, 2003. They each face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Rowe, approximately 30, whose last known address was in the 4500 block of West Jackson, is a fugitive. Sangster, also approximately 30, who is in federal custody, pleaded guilty and testified for the government at trial, as did three of the female straw purchasers. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Sangster is facing a four-year prison term, out of a five-year maximum, when he is sentenced.

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